

Reagan Sure to Overhaul State Super-Agency Plan

By VINCENT THOMAS Assemblyman, 68th District

How to achieve maximum results at least cost in operating our state government is a topic good for endless argument. From the layman on the street to the most knowledgeable "expert," nearly everyone has an opinion on what he would do if he were governor or if he were in a position of influence in the Legislature.

This applies to one of the current issues being raised with the advent of a new administration and a rather thoroughly reshuffled California Legislature — the question of whether to retain or drop the super-agency system.

In 1961, Governor Brown sought to reduce the number of heads reporting directly to him on the ground that there simply were too many of them for efficient control on the cabinet level. The Legislature, therefore, created by law four agency groupings headed by an administrator who would coordinate the work of the related departments and boards within his sphere, with only the super-agency administrator reporting directly to the governor.

FOUR OTHER large agencies were established by executive order, so that the governor then had only eight instead of some 40 or 50 appointees directly responsible to him. Despite some skepticism at the time, it was thought that this system would streamline the state government, make lines of responsibility more shortly defined, removed much of the administrative burden from the chief executive's office, result in closer cooperation and harmony of programs among related agencies, and would save money.

How has the system worked out? The answer at the moment seems to be: Not as well as its proponents had expected but probably better than its critics had predicted. And perhaps part of the answer

lies in which agencies you are talking about, since some are bound to be better run than others. One thing does seem to be rather clear, though, and that is the claimed money savings are hardly visible to the naked eye.

THE ASSEMBLY Committee on Government Organization and the governor-elect's own task force studying in advance what it believes needs changing when Mr. Reagan takes office seem to have reached similar conclusions about the super-agency system—that it hasn't performed as expected and should either be abolished or drastically revised. This, of course, would involve the Legislature, since half of the agencies were created by that body and

any changes would have to be made with the concurrence of the "parent."

There can be little doubt that some type of more effective coordination than existed prior to the agency system is needed. In the general area of

natural resources, for example, the many programs of the Departments of Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation, Conservation and Water Resources frequently overlap or threaten to conflict with one another. Someone, somehow,

with the authority to make hard decisions but with an open mind, needs to make those programs dovetail as neatly as humanly possible, both from a taxpayer's viewpoint and just from the exercise of common sense.

It is evident that both Governor Reagan and the Legislature will have their hands full in trying to decide what kind of new structure will accomplish the best job of providing government services for California citizens.

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Zoo Photo Contest Now Open

Competition is now under way in the first annual Zoo Photo Contest, sponsored by the Los Angeles Photography Center, 412 S. Parkview St., a facility of the City Recreation and Parks Department.

Tying in with the opening of the new zoo, the photo contest offers Southern California shutterbugs the chance to win trophies in 14 categories.

Deadline for entries of prints and color slides is 7:30 p.m., Jan. 19. Final judging takes place at 8 p.m. that night.

ALL ENTRIES must be of animals or facilities at the new zoo. Any of the more than 3,500 animals which represents 589 species, may be used as subjects in the shutterbug competition.

All film must be developed, printed, and mounted on a 16-by-20-inch matboard by the contestant. Prints may be of any size.

ONE ENTRY is allowed in each of the 14 divisions, which are divided equally into two groups, one for prints and one for color slides. Each seven divisions correspond to the various continental areas of the new Los Angeles Zoo.

Photographers planning to enter the contest may obtain further information and contest rules by contacting the Photo Center.

Private Adrian L. Vanden Heuvel, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Vanden Heuvel, 1760 Calamar St., completed a field communication crewman course at Ft. Ord, Dec. 22.

During the course, he was trained to string wire from the field to the communication center.

WOMEN OFTEN HAVE BLADDER IRRITATION

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Luncheon Meats Safeway Sliced 6-oz. pkg. **29c**

Ground Beef Fresh Ground 2-lb. roll **89c**

Pork Steaks Fresh Eastern **69c**

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Veal Rib Chops **89c**

Lamb Rib Chops **98c**

Sausage Dubuque Pure Pork 1-lb. roll **49c**

Franks Safeway All Beef 1-lb. pkg. **59c**

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Jumbo Walnuts **39c**

Tangelos Large Size—So Juicy and Sweet 5 lbs. **\$1.00**

Tomatoes Vine Ripe 13-oz. pkg. **29c**

Onions U.S. No. 1 Yellow 3-lb. bag **29c**

Carrots Packaged Daily 2-lb. bag **25c**

Orange Juice Tropicana 64-oz. Decanter **69c**

32-oz. Decanter **39c**

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